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to be plague, although every precaution had been taken, as is always the case when there is any suspicion. The lay press has recently reported that it is officially announced in Russia that 2 cases of plague have occurred recently in that country; 1 of them at least was in Odessa.

The outbreak of smallpox in London does not abate; in fact, it seems rather to increase, and for the last three days there are reported to have occurred 20, 11, and 35 new cases, respectively. As would naturally be expected, cases are beginning to occur in the neighboring towns, but as yet to no great extent.

The health of the United Kingdom is otherwise about as usual.

Respectfully,

A. R. THOMAS,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

#### GERMANY.

#### *Mortality of Berlin from 1896 to 1900.*

BERLIN, GERMANY, November 7, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of unnumbered special instructions dated October 26, requesting me to advise the Department for the information of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service of the death rate of Berlin for the year 1900, and the four years preceding, and in compliance therewith I have to report as follows:

During the ten years from 1886 to 1895, inclusive, the average death rate per 1,000 inhabitants in the city of Berlin was 21.3. The death rate of 1896 was 19.0. The death rate of 1897 was 18.6. The death rate of 1898 was 17.7. The death rate of 1899 was 19.7. The death rate of 1900 was 18.7.

The foregoing rate for 1900 is estimated from the most authentic statistics which are thus far accessible. The final official vital record of each successive year is not published until December of the year following the one to which it relates.

In this connection it may be of interest to add that the average death rate per 1,000 of the German Empire was 31 in 1871, 26.9 in 1881, 24.7 in 1891, and 22.7 in 1899 (the last year for which complete statistics are available), thus showing a gradual, but steady decline under the continued influences of enhanced general prosperity, better and more varied nutrition, higher standards of sanitation in the construction and care of dwellings and factories, and the general advance of prophylactic, medical, and sanitary science in this country.

Respectfully,

FRANK H. MASON,

*United States Consul-General.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

#### *Report from Berlin—The open-air treatment of consumption.*

BERLIN, GERMANY, November 18, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a synopsized translation of a report by Dr. Englemann of the imperial health office at Berlin, entitled "The success of the open-air treatment of consumption."

Respectfully,

FRANK H. MASON,

*United States Consul-General.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*